

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An apparatus for rapid screening of parcels to identify parcels likely to contain
2 biological or non-biological contaminants, comprising:
3 a jogger for shaking a plurality of parcels;
4 an air duct for channeling an air flow over the plurality of parcels in the jogger; and
5 a particulate sampler for analyzing the air flow to detect whether the plurality of
6 parcels is likely to include contaminants.
- 1 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a particulate concentrator for filtering
2 the air flow.
- 1 3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the particulate concentrator includes a
2 particulate air filter which is analyzed at periodic intervals to confirm the accuracy of the
3 analysis performed by the particulate sampler.
- 1 4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the jogger further comprises a ram that
2 compresses the parcels.
- 1 5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the ram is fixably attached to a push plate which
2 contacts one of a plurality of parcels juxtaposed positioned in a bin of the jogger.

- 1 6. An apparatus for rapid screening of parcels to identify parcels likely to contain
2 biological or non-biological contaminants, comprising:
3 a cutter for opening each parcel;
4 a jogger for shaking the opened parcels;
5 an air duct for channeling an air flow obtained when the jogger shakes the opened
6 parcels; and
7 a particulate sampler connected by the air duct to the jogger, wherein the particulate
8 sampler analyzes the air flow to detect whether the plurality of opened parcels is likely to
9 include contaminants.
- 1 7. The apparatus of Claim 6, further comprising a hood which covers the jogger and
2 the cutter.
- 1 8. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the jogger includes a bin capable of holding a
2 plurality of parcels.
- 1 9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the jogger further includes a cover that covers
2 parcels loaded into the bin.
- 1 10. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the cutter slits open a corner of each parcel.
- 1 11. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the cutter punches a hole in each parcel.
- 1 12. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the jogger further comprises a ram for
2 compressing the parcels.

1 13. A method for rapid screening of parcels to identify parcels likely to contain
2 particles of biological or non-biological contaminants, comprising the steps of:
3 opening each parcel;
4 shaking the parcels;
5 creating an air flow over the parcels as the parcels are shaken; and
6 analyzing the air flow to detect whether the parcels are likely to include contaminants.

1 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the shaking step further comprises compressing
2 the parcels.

1 15. The method of Claim 13, wherein as the parcels are simultaneously shaken and
2 compressed.

1 16. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the steps of:
2 filtering the air flow with a particulate concentrator; and,
3 performing a confirmatory analysis on the particulate concentrator.

1 17. An apparatus for rapid screening of parcels to identify parcels likely to contain
2 biological or non-biological contaminants, comprising:
3 a jogger for shaking a plurality of parcels;
4 an air duct for channeling an air flow over the plurality of parcels in the jogger; and
5 a particulate concentrator for filtering the air flow, wherein the particulate
6 concentrator is analyzed at periodic intervals to analyze the air flow to detect whether the
7 plurality of parcels is likely to include contaminants.

- 1 18. The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising a cutter for opening each parcel
2 prior to the shaking of the parcels.